

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 1. (Unchanged) A method for maintaining confidentiality of personal information during E-
2 commerce transactions comprising the steps of:

3 compiling a profile of personal information within an electronic depository for at least a first
4 party to an E-commerce transaction;

5 providing said first party a unique transaction identifier linked to said profile for use during
6 said E-commerce transaction; and

7 in response to said first party providing said transaction identifier to a second party to said
8 E-commerce transaction, completing said transaction utilizing said electronic depository without said
9 second party receiving any of said personal information.

1 2. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 1, wherein said first party is a buyer and said second party
2 is a merchant having a web server for initiating E-commerce transactions, and said completing step
3 further includes the step of locating said transaction identifier in said electronic depository.

1 3. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 2, wherein said completing step further includes the steps of:

2 assigning a security routing identifier (SRID) for utilization by a shipper and said merchant
3 to match a product with a buyer's address;

4 receiving said transaction identifier along with said security routing identifier at said
5 depository; and

6 forwarding at least a portion of said profile to said shipper along with said SRID, wherein
7 said shipper receives a product from said merchant utilizing only said SRID and sends said product
8 to said buyer utilizing said profile.

1 4. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 3, wherein said receiving step includes the step of
2 automatically notifying said buyer of a receipt of said transaction information.

1 5. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 3, wherein said product for said transaction is electronic and
2 said receiving step further includes the step of electronically receiving said product at said depository
3 and then transmitting said product to said buyer.

1 6. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of providing a unique transaction
2 identifier comprises the step of providing a credit card number.

1 7. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 1, wherein said second party and has a unique TID, further
2 comprising the steps of completing said E-commerce transaction on a server of said electronic
3 depository wherein said transaction is completed on said server without said first party and said
4 second party receiving any of said personal information of the other party.

1 8. (Unchanged) A client-based method for maintaining confidentiality of personal information
2 during E-commerce transactions comprising the steps of:

3 creating a profile of personal information within an electronic depository for at least a first
4 party to an E-commerce transaction, wherein said first party is provided a unique transaction
5 identifier linked to said profile for use during said E-commerce transaction; and

6 in response to said first party providing said transaction identifier to a second party to said
7 E-commerce transaction, forwarding information related to said E-commerce transaction to said

8 electronic depository, wherein said transaction is completed by said electronic depository without
9 said second party receiving any of said personal information.

1 9. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of enabling said first party to
2 select whether or not to provide said personal information to said second party.

1 10. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 9, wherein said enabling step further comprises the step of
2 providing a web browser application having a graphical user interface (GUI) on an Internet access
3 system of said client, wherein said GUI provides a plurality of selectable options for said first party
4 including utilizing a transaction identifier to complete said E-commerce transaction.

1 11. (Unchanged) A system for maintaining confidentiality of personal information during E-
2 commerce transactions comprising:

3 an electronic depository utilized for storing a profile of personal information for at least a
4 first party to an E-commerce transaction;

5 registration utility affiliated with said depository for assigning said first party a unique
6 transaction identifier linked to said profile for use during said E-commerce transaction;

7 transaction utility affiliated with said depository for completing said E-commerce
8 transactions utilizing said electronic depository in response to said first party providing said
9 transaction identifier to a second party to said E-commerce transaction, wherein said second party
10 does not receive any of said personal information of said first party.

1 12. (Unchanged) The system of Claim 11, wherein said first party is a buyer and said second party
2 is a merchant having a web server for initiating E-commerce transactions, and said transaction utility
3 includes means for locating said transaction identifier in said electronic depository.

1 13. (Unchanged) The system of Claim 12, wherein said transaction utility further includes:

2 means for assigning a security routing identifier (SRID) for utilization by a shipper and said
3 merchant to match a product with a buyer's address;

4 means for receiving said transaction identifier along with said security routing identifier to
5 said depository; and

6 means for forwarding at least a portion of said profile to said shipper along with said SRID,
7 wherein said shipper receives a product from said merchant utilizing only said SRID and sends said
8 product to said buyer utilizing said profile.

1 14. (Unchanged) The system of Claim 13, wherein said receiving means includes means for
2 automatically notifying said buyer party of a receipt of said transaction information.

1 15. (Unchanged) The system of Claim 13, wherein said product for said transaction is electronic
2 and said receiving means further includes electronically receiving said product at said depository and
3 then transmitting said product to said buyer.

1 16. (Unchanged) The system of Claim 11, wherein said registration utility which provides a unique
2 transaction identifier comprises means for providing a credit card number.

1 17. (Unchanged) The system of Claim 12, wherein said second party also has a unique TID, further
2 comprising means for completing said E-commerce transaction on a server of said electronic
3 depository wherein said transaction is completed on said server without said first party and said
4 second party receiving any of said personal information of the other party.

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